

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 MANAGU 01291 042338Z

61

ACTION ARA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 PM-03 INR-05 PRS-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 L-01 /036 W

----- 126592

O 042314Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6630

INFO AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T MANAGUA 1291

LIMDIS

TEGUCIGALPA FOR AMB SANCHEZ ONLY

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, HO, NU

SUBJECT: HONDURAN DEVELOPMENTS

FROM AMB SHELTON

1. GON PRESIDENT SOMOZA HAS TOLD ME IN STRICTEST CONFIDENCE THAT HIS LATEST ASSESSMENT REGARDING THE PRESENT POLITICAL SITUATION IN HONDURAS LEADS HIM TO BELIEVE THAT CHIEF OF STATE LOPEZ IS POWERLESS, AND THAT WHILE FOR PERSONAL AND OTHER REASONS LOPEZ MAY ATTEMPT TO TEMPORIZE SUFFICIENTLY TO REMAIN IN OFFICE, THAT THIS WILL BE INCREASINGLY DIFFICULT, AND THAT IT APPEARS LIKELY THAT IT MAY BE NECESSARY FOR HIM TO RESIGN.

2. SOMOZA HAS FURTHER ADVISED THAT HE HAS RECEIVED A NUMBER OF PHONE CALLS FROM WEALTHY INDIVIDUALS IN HONDURAS EXPRESSING CONCERN. SOMOZA IS REPLYING BY STRONGLY STATING HIS COMPLETE "HANDSOFF POLICY".

3. PRESIDENT SOMOZA HAS FURTHER ADVISED ME THAT HE HAS RECEIVED WHAT HE CONSIDERS AS RELIABLE INFORMATION WHICH WOULD INDICATE THE "LEFTIST" ORIENTATION OF SOME OF THE YOUNGER OFFICERS WHO HAVE TAKEN OVER, EPITOMIZED BY THE COLONEL IN CHARGE OF AGRARIAN

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 MANAGU 01291 042338Z

REFORM, WHO HE UNDERSTANDS STUDIED IN BULGARIA, OR OTHER

EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRY. ADDITIONALLY, SOMOZA SAYS THAT IT IS HIS UNDERSTANDING THAT COLONEL MELGAR IS BASICALLY A "FIGURE-HEAD" WITHOUT DOMINATE POWER. SOMOZA ADDS THAT THE SITUATION, AS FAR AS HE IS CONCERNED, IS STILL SUBJECT TO FURTHER CLARIFICATION WHICH HE IS ATTEMPTING TO OBTAIN. SOMOZA IS OBVIOUSLY FOLLOWING DEVELOPMENTS IN HONDURAS WITH CLOSE INTEREST, ESPECIALLY BECAUSE OF ITS LONG BORDER WITH NICARAGUA.

4. SOMOZA HAS ASSIGNED HIS MINISTER OF DEFENSE SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR KEEPING HIM FULLY INFORMED ON DEVELOPMENTS IN HONDURAS. IT IS MY UNDERSTANDING THAT MEMBERS OF THE NICARAGUAN NATIONAL GUARD ARE ACQUAINTED WITH A NUMBER OF THE OFFICERS APPARENTLY COMING TO POWER AND THEY ARE ANALYZING THEIR BACKGROUND AND ORIENTATION. SOMOZA HAS PROMISED TO INFORM ME FULLY AS SOON AS HE DEVELOPS ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.

5. THE PAPAL NUNCIO, WHO IS JOINTLY RESIDENT IN BOTH HONDURAS AND NICARAGUA RETURNED FROM HONDURAS ON APRIL 2. THE NUNCIO TOLD ME ON APRIL 3 THAT HIS PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT WAS THAT THE NEW OFFICERS WERE REASONABLY CENTERISTS, BUT THAT MUCH WOULD DEPEND ON THE STRENGTH OF COLONEL MELGAR.

6. WILL SEND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AS IT BECOMES AVAILABLE.
SHELTON

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975MANAGU01291
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750117-1037
From: MANAGUA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750481/aaaacwaj.tel
Line Count: 85
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 SEP 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10 SEP 2003 by KelleyW0>; APPROVED <11 SEP 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: HONDURAN DEVELOPMENTS FROM AMB SHELTON
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, HO, NU, (SOMOZA DEBAYLE, ANASTASIO), (LOPEZ ARELLANO, OSWALDO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006